

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner, Mr. Lavarias, for his courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during an interview conducted March 23, 2005. During the interview, counsel and the Examiner discussed each of the independent claims in the application (Claims 23, 40, 43 and 44), as well as two additional independent Claims 48 and 49. At the conclusion of the interview, as indicated in the Interview Summary, it was agreed that the claims as discussed during the interview (and attached to the Interview Summary) appear to distinguish over the cited prior art, including Sato et al in particular. Accordingly, by the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended the claims in the manner discussed during the interview, so that the same are now believed to be allowable.

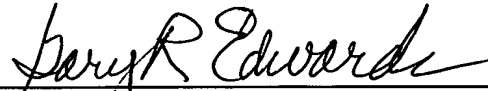
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please

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charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #420/50815).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary R. Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

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